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explore the castellated hill towns which ever and anon break the monotony of the landscapes, and sighs as he realizes his inability to gratify his wish.

The automobile has gone far to banish these futile longings. One is no longer dependent on vehicles which run only on definite lines and at stated hours. The motorist is lord of his own movements and bound by no time table. He can, like the wind, go where he listeth, discover nooks and corners unknown to Cook and his tourist, and is sometimes moved to share his discoveries with those unfortunates who possess not motors and are obliged to remain at home.

Such an one is Mr. Francis Miltoun, who gives us his impressions of Italian Highways and Byways as seen from his motor. His book serves divers purposes. It supplies the motorist with many suggestions as to routes, confirmed by sundry maps, indicates the good roads and warns against the bad, specifies the bake shops where hunger can be reasonably as well as satisfactorily appeased, not neglecting to mention high grade hotels in the cities, where the author has been well entreated.

But it is by no means a mere guide book. Mr. Miltoun has a keen eye for the picturesque and his descriptions are vivid and lifelike. He deals as well with the men and manners of Italy, going, with minute detail, into the characteristics of the peasant, the bourgeois and the official, and is not above telling us their several rates of expenditure and their proclivities in food and drink. He is evidently well versed in historic lore and supplies to many a halting place its appropriate reminiscence and legend.

The book thus covers a wide field and though its subject is hackneyed, succeeds in presenting it in new and varied forms. It will be useful to the motorist, suggestive to the tourist and pleasant reading for those who are forced to form their impressions of Italy at their own firesides.

T. M. A.

Essai sur la Constitution géologique de la Guyane hollandaise (District occidental). Par H. Van Cappelle. 181 pp., and Map. Ch. Beranger, Paris, 1907. fr. 3.50.

The region studied by the author lies in the basins of the Nickerie and Co-rentyn rivers, western Dutch Guiana. He had already described the district, in its general features, in his book "Au travers des forêts vierges de la Guyane hollandaise" (1905). In the present work, he gives an historical sketch of the geological exploration of Dutch New Guinea which is followed by a chapter on the topographical features of the western region which he especially studied. He discusses the geology of this region in pp. 25-84, the petrographic results in pp. 85-177 and adds a few notes on the meteorological observations, with a table of temperatures in Sept.-Oct., 1900. The archæan rocks are granite and dolomite with intrusions of pyroxenic amphibolite and gabbro. He found few traces of paleozoic rocks and nothing of the Cretaceous. The younger formations consist chiefly of the alluvial deposits of lakes and rivers, sandstones and conglomerate. The writer gives much attention to the effects of rock weathering in that tropical region. His map shows in colours the geology along the Nickerie, Co-rentyn and Fallawatra rivers.

The Empire of the East. A Simple Account of Japan as it was, is and will be. By H. B. Montgomery xii and 307 pp., Illustrations and Index. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1909.

This is not a mere traveller's book. Its author has had an opportunity to view the life of the Japanese from within and to form careful judgments on

many matters. The work is introduced by an excellent chapter on the old civilization of Japan, followed by concise descriptions of the physical features and products of the country, the Japanese race, language, religions, government, activities, education, army and navy, life and habits. More than half of the book is given to the inner life of the people and its expression—their arts, literature and the drama, their morality and their “capacity for adapting what is good in foreign nations and moulding it for their own purposes.” The book gains in interest and value because it is simply written and because its design is to show clearly what the people are and what their potentialities may make them. The artistic pictures are from Japanese originals. This is one of two or three recent books on Japan that are worthy of special attention as occupying a different plane from the many books that give merely superficial impressions of the country and its people.

The Great Wall of China. By William Edgar Geil. xvi and 393 pp., 116 Illustrations and Index. Sturgis & Walton, New York. 1909. \$5.

The illustrations are the most striking feature of this book. They show parts of the wall from its seaward end to the place far inland where Dr. Geil and the stars and stripes appear impressively against a background of “the end of the Great Wall.” His photographs of the wall, along the hundreds of miles that he followed it to the west, are certainly very noteworthy. They show this tremendous work under many aspects and although Dr. Geil fails, throughout his large book, to give anything that approaches a systematic account either of the history or of the present aspects of the Great Wall, his numerous photographs are a valuable addition to our means of information concerning it.

His book is extremely discursive. After telling us that, when the building of the Great Wall began, the Hellenic world was discussing and admiring seven stupendous structures, he pauses to describe the Seven Wonders of antiquity. Here and there, he abruptly interrupts his story to introduce extraneous matter, such as a facetious paragraph from an English newspaper. That he was careful not to take his topic too seriously seems apparent both from his text and his map. He shows no map of the wall as it stretches across China, but imposes the wall upon a map of the United States to illustrate how far inland it would extend in our country. Only a comparatively small part of the book is given to the story of his journey or to a description of the wall as he saw it. The most of it is history, for the compilation of which there is considerable library material. The author gives translations of many of the inscriptions on the wall. A note by his publishers emphasizes the fact that the book contains no “long, dry, detailed, laborious description of the various styles of wall; there are reproductions from photographs which will furnish the information, without encumbering the letter press. The illustrations should be carefully studied during the reading of the book.”

Die Polarwelt und ihre Nachbarländer. Von Otto Nordenskjöld. vii and 220 pp., 77 Illustrations in the text, frontispiece in color and index. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1909. M. 8.

The interest in the polar world was never greater than it is to-day. With the present advanced knowledge of it, the fact is perhaps surprising that competent authorities have not yet undertaken to present in one convenient volume a good summarization of the enormous mass of information that has been collected. Not a few good books of this kind have been written about nearly all the other lands